



Hampshire’s Only Student Newspaper

Omen announces new standards of moral decency, entire staff resigns in protest.

by Colysselle Colzynsifson

Hampshire College’s one remaining campus publication, The Omen, adopted new standards to compensate for the loss of every purported “news” organ, as the Climax went gently into that good night. “Honestly nobody noticed” Hans Eenzeair, a second semester div II who entered in Fall 2001, commented, “but I guess it’s nice that they decided to try?” The new standards were imposed by a former Omen staffer, who reportedly seized power when Editor Jonathan Gardner was occupied with a particularly demanding ledge in Twitch Plays Pokemon Silver. Upon hearing that they would be required to, at minimum, credit content stolen from the internet, the entire Omen staff marched out of the room, pausing only to flip over tables and fight over who got to take the waffle fries with them. Asked for comment, one staffer made simultaneous fart noises with both their elbows and their hands, another mooned your intrepid reporter, and a third unleashed a chain of profanity which frankly your humble correspondent feels uncomfortable reporting in a reputable news publication like the Nemo, which your correspondent’s grandmother reads. Another staffer would not speak on the record, or off the record, but did offer to write comments on the back of a signed 8.5x11” glossy print of “Miss March,” a Playbadger model. The Nemo does not have a policy which allows it to pay sources, as this would compromise journalistic integrity. Long a noted hive of putrescence, political expression, pornography, and elvidillos, the Omen Office stood empty, but not for long. Sad, shivering refugees from The Climax trickled in, gasping in wonder. Many had never seen a computer before. “It has chairs! Not just carpeted steps! Real, genuine, honest chairs! Sure, we could pretend that the kiva promoted ‘synergistic cooperation free of hierarchies’ but what does that even *mean*?” said one bedraggled, lonely, division II student, clutching a thin CEL-I form to their chest. “The Climax seems like a bad dream now. A bad, lonely, dream. Like shouting into a void, but worse. Because we thought we were doing something important, you know? It’s like waking up the morning after Jonestown with a koolaid mustache and wondering where your friends went. Was it worth? No. No, it was not.” The former Omen staffer who seized control of the publication has since installed the Climax survivors, your humble, earnest, increasingly desperate, correspondent churning out news for “The Nemo,” which he alleges is a genuine news organization, which will give our lives meaning, is Michael Zimm, who has printed a page of the AP stylebook which insists that he be referred to in print as “I, Michael Zimm.” I, Michale Zimm, has assured the Climax survivors that they will have a place in his new news order, as long as they provide adequate, reputable, moral content. Mr Zimm released a statement to survivors of the Climax, the Switchboard, The Inkvalve, inviting them to enjoy the benefits of an actual office as well. “Give to I, MICHALE ZIMM, your tired, your pooor, the wretched reTFUSE off your TEEMING SHORE, YOUR MASSES OF HUDDLED STUDENTS WHO ARE YEARNING TO SPEAK FREE” Δ

Bon Appetite Sets Up New Spy Cameras in the Back Dining Room

by Ace Reporter Millie Morales

Catering service Bon Appetite (sometimes called Bon A-patato or Bon Petites-portions) has installed two new spy cameras in the back room of Saga. “I’m pretty sure they’re speakers,” says this one kid choking down his third plate of French fries. He murmured under his breath as I left the room, “God I am so tired of fries every dinner.” “They are speakers!” said that one bald Saga worker that we’re all concerned about, in an exasperated tone. “They’re just speakers! That’s all!” He pushed his glasses up his nose, straightened his silk waistcoat and walked stiffly back into the kitchens. If the devices are speakers, though, why aren’t they against the back brick wall, where amps and speakers are more strategically placed when Saga hosts live music. “They’re watching us, man,” said one student, who didn’t want to be named for fear that the “Reptoids were listening in- got to watch out for those Reptoids and their Grey spies, man.” Their argument was very convincing and I decided against mentioning her name against her wishes as I originally planned (those who know the truth must be protected, even if it means still hiding under the blanket of fear our hushed up Anunnakai overlords imposed on us all those years ago).

But the question remains- why would Bon Apatato be spying on us? What information could this company, that supplies us with enough untouchable display produce to feed a small starving country every week, possibly want? No Bon Petites-Portions worker would answer my questions, so I can only come a conclusion with the help of my fellow students. Ask about them. Frequently. Incessantly. Write your questions on those little brown cards that that one kid takes away from the dining commons in the afternoon when he thinks no one is looking. Write your questions on the black boards. Sharpie it on the “What’s Hampenig?” inserts. Why is this necessary? Why are you watching us? Who are you really? WHY IS MY PARENT’S MONEY SPEANT ON THESE USELESS THINGS INSTEAD OF FOOD THAT ISN’T POTATOES?!?! Pester people*, form an uprising, destroy the establishment, make your voices heard and your your actions unseen by mysterious cameras and expensive flatscreen television sets. Knowledge is power and power is not potatoes. Δ

*but be kind to Saga workers, they work hard to feed your asses, even if it is potatoes.

Omen Welcomes New Editor

by Nathan Gard



Michael Zimm (above)

The Omen, Hampshire’s biweekly free speech publication, welcomed a new editor this week, M. Zimm (pictured left). Zimm promises to revolutionize the Omen, and is already instituting changes: “In the past, we’ve allowed anyone to submit pretty much anything they wanted to the Omen,” he told us in our interview. “That changes starting today. Instead, the entirety of the Omen will consist of my face. Repeated for pages and pages and pages. 40 pages, to be exact; that’s the limit to the number of pages that duplications can print, but in the past we’ve done a multi-volume thing, so it could be that each issue will have multiple volumes, all of my face.” When asked to comment on the mysterious

disappearance of former editor Jonathan Gardner and the bloodstains found splattered across his room, Zimm responded: “No comment.” Other students involved with the Omen appear to be just as excited about the changes as Zimm: “Zimm executes the will of the monolith,” they said in unison, glassy, blank eyes staring straight ahead as if I was not there. “Serve the monolith. Serve the monolith. Execute the students. Serve the monolith.” Δ

Ghost of The Climax Haunts Mixed Nuts

by Grant Wilson

As Mixed Nuts prepares to move into the new Roose-Rhode House by the Cole Science Center, staff are starting to report odd incidents around their old space. One student, Alisia DeGibs, reported that while trying to ring up several pounds of nutritional yeast, the mixed nuts computer began typing an angry rant about ICUHampy on its own. The unnamed space by the laundry room currently occupied by Mixed Nuts was originally planned to be occupied by now defunct student group The Climax after Mixed Nuts moved out. Another Mixed Nuts worker, Matty Szelcking, theorizes that the space is being haunted by The Climax’s ghost, angry that its death came before it could finally obtain an office of its own, like its much more successful competitor The Omen has. To support this theory, Szelcking mentions hearing faint cries of “change your listserv name...” and “you’re bullying us...” in the Mixed Nuts Bathroom, as well as the mysterious phenomenon’s lack of consistent presence. Δ

Postmodernist Meta-Nonfiction Drifting Towards a Movie Review!

by Icey Mynn

The people deserve to know the truth. There is a truth that people deserve to know. A truth about transparency and openness that could shake the very foundation of the paradigm in which the people currently exist. The “people” being those who are quantified within the overall category of “society,” and society being whatever the hell you (“you” being the consciousness struggling to comprehend this string of unrelated words) want it to be. This vague, non-defined group of individuals (who are also a unified mass) deserve to know the truth, some truth, a truth. The particular truth which they —you —we —people —everyone —no one deserves to know isn’t quite something that’s yet appeared in the mind of the author. But it’s slowly clicking into place, in the sense that the author has scraped something up from the bottom of their brainpan, which they wonder whether or not is a legitimate neurological term. And finally, we have come to the main subject of this article: neurology. Or more accurately, something that can be conceived within the mind: which could still absolutely anything apart from a reasonable stopping point for the Fast and Furious franchise. Movies seems like a good place to leader this article to, and movies is where the author will begin, because —apart from holding a penchant for Postmodernism (after reading two short works), one of which was Pynchon’s— the creator of this work of nonsensicalism has stumbled upon something vaguely relevant. Therefore, we —the vague ethereal collective of the readership and the writer— have speedily arrived at our shared point: Veronica Mars. Being neither remotely versed in current events, politics (technically the same thing), Hampshire goings-on, pop-culture, or anything else remotely current, the composer of this fine mess must settle for Veronica Mars. Deplorably, the hands-depressing-the-keys-which-are-creating-this-work-of-trash have never been privy to a single episode of the possible acclaimed —more likely not— neo-noir television show, known only as Veronica Mars. *continued on next page*

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However, the eyeballs-staring-blankly-at-this- glowing-screen-as-more-words-continue-to- appear-on-it have also witnessed the big-screen adaption, started by Kickstarter, because even movie studios were wise enough not to bankroll such a fatuous thing. However, the good people of Kickstarter were somehow willing, possibly because they were forced to reallocate their money to Kristen Bell’s mediocre acting, away from a spectacular Minecraft fan movie that will never exist, all thanks to the cruelty of Mojang (“Birth of a Man,” look it up).

Instead of wonderful video game fandom, we have a movie adaption aping a series of movies that only worked when black and white, poor lighting, and incredibly drawn out plots were a must. Yet somehow we, the vague collective of people known as society have still allowed Kristen Bell to get in front of the camera. So that she can pose as an intrepid P.I., one who’s also somehow a lawyer, possesses the maturity of a twelve year old llama, and wields the intrepid, consistently appropriate wit of Charlie Sheen. Better yet, the supporting characters range from generic douche bags to James Franco being unable to put on pants. Truly an all star cast all around, especially Kristen Bell who seems as though she might be famous, but lacks a single legitimate movie to her name (unless you count the one that showed us all (whoever the hell “we” are) far too much of Jason Segel and his odd fixation with Puppet Musicals). In conclusion, read “Lost in the Funhouse,” watch Forgetting Sarah Marshall, and ban any television shows from requesting Kickstarter funding for a movie adaption, unless they are Friends, because we really need Ross and Rachel back when the best semblance we now have is Zoey Dechanel and that guy who plays side characters in movies (21 Jump St, Safety not Guaranteed, and some far more generic movies that the brain-comprising-this-textual-dribble entirely forgot he performed in). In summation, neo-noir was never better than when Joseph Gordon-Levitt wore glasses and spoke far too fast to be remotely comprehensible. △

Hampshire Students Revealed to be Sheep

by Spencer McWilliams

In a turn of events that will be sure to affect Hampshire’s Admissions literature, it was discovered on Friday that Hampshire students are, in fact, sheep. “It was incredible,” said Jolie Atterwood, professor of Neuroscience and Medieval Basque Literature. “One moment they were participating the class discussion, the next they were all bleating and butting heads. It actually took me a while to notice the change.” Professors and staff across campus reported similar transformations, as students began walking on all fours and flocking. When one of these students were caught, it was found that their human face was a mask, and that their flannel shirt and skintight jeans had been covering a thick, wooly coat. “At this point, we don’t know what caused the students to reveal their trueovine form,” stated Jonathan Lash. “However, we are planning to incorporate this change into our focus on sustainability, as sheep are a low-emissions means of maintaining the campus lawn.” Professors too noted that, after the initial shock, they were actually quite happy with the development. “Sheep are naturally docile animals and are easy to herd. Controlling the classroom has become much easier,” said George Bach, visiting professor of Cybernetic Experimental Theater. Mark Feinstein, professor of Linguistics, also expressed excitement at the new development. Asked to comment, an alumnus noted that “we’ve been waiting for this for a while” and that it in no way changed their desire to “give baaaaaack to the college.” △

President of the College Acts Strangely

by O. Peszna

Jonathan Lash has recently been seen wandering the halls of Cole and pausing to check his phone every few seconds. Last night, he was spotted repeatedly walking into the wall next to the bathroom door. Physical plant workers spent all morning cleaning up the resultant mess. Emily, a Hampshire College student who works in the president’s office, said this is a strange change of pace for the esteemed president. “I just don’t know what’s going on. Usually, he only checks his phone every once in a while. And I usually only see him walking into a wall half a dozen times in a given hour.” Professors at the College have mixed opinions on this new state of anarchy. Some think it’s very inspired. “You just don’t see that sort of initiative anymore,” said one professor, who wishes to remain anonymous. “It makes me feel confident, working under someone who just does things.” Others are less positive about the change. According to another anonymous professor, “he’s getting things done, yes, but there’s no thought behind any of it. He’s not stopping to figure out democratically what he wants to do, and just following every impulse.” President Lash was approached for comment on his recent actions, such as the new environmental Division I requirement. “vital students plan,” he said, before looking at his phone three times in quick succession and walking off the side of the podium, flailing his legs. “the vital community attract. the green inclusive sustainable academic green center with the green entrepreneurship integrate.” He then proceeded to release his chief of staff from duty. △

Amazius Magicalariumitron, Advice Wizard

Dear Advice Wizard,

My parents are pacifists who want me to study philosophy in college. However, I know that my destiny is really to join a hockey team and become a hockey superstar and fight people while singing. What should I do? I don’t want to disappoint my parents, but I must follow my dreams.

Signed,
H.G., Hockey Enthusiast

Dear H.G.,

That is quite the predicament you have gotten yourself into there, youngster! But never fear, Amazius Magicalariumitron knows exactly what you need to do! First: you must find a basilisk, and slay it. Second: from the basilisk’s fangs, you must craft a complete set of cutlery—fork, knife, tablespoon, soup spoon, dessert fork, dessert knife, soup knife, spork, dessert fork, and lunch fork. Third—and this is perhaps the most important of all—you must chant the ancient words: aa aa aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa a aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa a aaaaaaaaa aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa aaaaaaaaa aaaaaa

Fourth: Spin around four times in a bathroom with the lights off. Fifth: Wait, I think I mixed up the order of those last two. Sixth: shit on your worst enemy’s front porch. Do this, my friend, and soon all your problems will disappear, just as a dinner disappears mysteriously when placed before me!

Signed,
Amazius Magicalariumitron, Advice Wizard △

Announcement of a Strategic Planning Strategic Planning Process

Dear Students, Staff, & Faculty;

In late 2010 Interim President Marlene Gerber Fried appointed a strategic planning committee (SPC) to lead a process of community visioning and discussion, and to draft a strategic plan for the College. During the winter and spring the committee held a series of ideation sessions led by Hampshire alum Jay Vogt. Hundreds of students, staff, and faculty participated in a process that many found cathartic and inspiring after a period of turbulent transition. Based on those sessions and the efforts of numerous working groups, in 2011 the committee drafted the iHampshire College Strategic Plan 2011-2016i which articulated a list of 41 projects and ideas in 18 areas, including in excess of \$100 million in new construction, remodeling, urgent maintenance, and new programs. The plan did not set priorities among the pressing needs it identified, and, beyond suggesting a need to increase fundraising and seek new sources of revenue, the plan did not identify means for funding the projects listed. In addition, the SPC did not properly outline an implementation plan for the 41 projects it included as part of the strategic plan. In 2013, President Jonathan Lash announced the hiring of Keeling & Associates (K&A) Consulting Firm to lead us in a new process of strategic planning for the college, and appointed the Strategic Planning Steering Committee (SPSC) to work with K&A to conduct interviews, focus groups, forums, ideation sessions, surveys, and analysis on collected data. 2013 also marked the beginning of our new student government, the Hampshire Student Union, which had started without a proper plan for implementation or any agreed upon documents precisely outlining the structure of the government. In response to the troubles met by this, the Coordinating Board of the Hampshire Student Union announced the hiring of Keeling & Associates to lead them in a strategic planning process for the Hampshire Student Union, and appointed from each body a member to serve on a committee that would work with K&A to create a strategic plan for creating an effective student government at Hampshire. These strategic planning processes started without a proper plan for their implementation or direction. K&A’s forums and focus groups were met with low attendance, with only the same handful of students attending all of them and only two faculty giving any input at all. Not even all 27 of the Board of Trustees responded to the campus-wide survey sent out by the SPSC as part of the strategic planning process. In spite of the hiring of K&A, many members of the Hampshire Student Union continue to disengage and the strategic planning retreats and interviews pertaining to the student government have only been gathering the same handful of students who attended the other K&A strategic planning events. In light of all this, Jonathan Lash & The Board of Trustees are announcing that Hampshire College will be hiring Keeling & Associates Consulting Firm to lead us in a process of forming a strategic plan for initiating a strategic planning process for the college. Jonathan Lash is also appointing a Strategic Planning Strategic Planning Steering Committee Steering Committee (SPSPSCSC). The SPSPSCSC will be working closely with K&A to conduct interviews, focus groups, forum, ideation sessions, surveys, and analysis on collected data from students, staff, & faculty on what is important to a Hampshire College strategic planning process. From this process Hampshire will work with K&A to make the “Hampshire College Strategic Planning Strategic Plan” which we will implement as a new strategic planning process, which we will likely hire Keeling & Associates Consulting Firm to help us with. This Strategically Planned Strategic Planning Process will be better implemented and more effective than all prior strategic planning processes and from it we will have the Hampshire College Strategically Planned Strategic Plan 2011-2016, a document which should be completed in 2015. At the end of the term for this strategic plan, in 2016, we will start a new strategic planning strategic planning process to strategically plan the next strategic planning process to create a strategic plan for 2016-2021.

We look forward to seeing your participation in this strategic planning strategic planning process, Warmly,
MariaCaroline McGillford
Senior Executive Associate Assistant to the Office of the President & The Board of Trustees △